



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING




JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
SUPERINTENDENT OF  
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

January 24, 2008

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** State Board of Education

**FROM:** Michael Flanagan, Chairman 

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Criteria for 2007-2008 State School Aid Act, Section 41  
Bilingual Education Grants

The Michigan Legislature in the 2007-2008 State School Aid Act, Section 41, appropriated \$2,800,000 for grants to local public schools, public school academies, and intermediate school districts for instruction for pupils of limited English-speaking ability in speaking, reading, writing, or comprehension of English.

Eligible school districts will receive funds based on the number of eligible students enrolled in and receiving bilingual instruction based on the Fall Membership Count Day

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the criteria for the 2007-2008 State School Aid Act, Section 41, Bilingual Education Grants, as attached to the Superintendent's memorandum dated January 24, 2008.

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MICHIGAN  
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Criteria for the 2007-2008 State School Aid Act, Section 41, Bilingual Education

The State Board of Education has adopted as its Strategic Goal "Attain substantial and meaningful improvement in academic achievement for all students/children with primary emphasis on high priority schools and students."

To the extent possible, all grant criteria and grant awards will serve to further attain the above goal.

**PRIORITIES, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS THAT THESE CRITERIA SUPPORT**

Section 41 of the State School Aid Act is to support bilingual instruction for pupils of limited English-speaking ability in speaking, reading, writing, or comprehension. The instruction must be conducted or supervised by a teacher with a Michigan bilingual endorsement. Bilingual instruction is the use of two languages, one of which is English, as the means of instruction.

**BACKGROUND/PURPOSE OF GRANT**

☐ Competitive    ☒ Formula    ☒ New    ☐ Continuation    (*check all that apply*)

The Michigan Legislature has directed \$2,800,000 be made available to applicant districts and intermediate districts offering programs of instruction for pupils of limited English-speaking ability under section 1153 of the revised school code, MCL 380.1153. Reimbursement shall be on a per pupil basis and shall be based on the number of pupils of limited English-speaking ability in membership on the pupil membership count day. Funds allocated under this section shall be used solely for instruction in speaking, reading, writing, or comprehension of English. A pupil shall not be counted under this section or instructed in a program under this section for more than 3 years.

Section 41 provides instruction to assist children of limited English-speaking ability to achieve reasonable efficiency in the English language. The program uses the child's primary language in a variable manner to promote English proficiency and subject area competence. How much of the child's primary language is used in the program is an instructional decision that is up to the school district. English as a Second Language (ESL) can be part of the bilingual education program, but a purely ESL approach may not be operated with Section 41 funds.

**CRITERIA**

☒ Defined in Legislation    ☐ Defined in Department's Approved Grant Application to the Funder    ☒ Proposed by Staff

- Student is eligible based on the use of the *Home Language Survey*
  - Student is listed on the Fall Membership Count
  - Student is eligible based on a consultation between the district and the student's parents
- For students in grades 3-12, eligibility is based on test scores *at or below* the 40<sup>th</sup> percentile on a test of oral English language proficiency. Test must be approved by the Michigan Department of Education and must have been given within the previous six months
- Student shall not have been instructed in a bilingual program for more than 3 years

**ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS/TARGET POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY GRANT**

Local public schools, public school academies, and intermediate school districts. Private schools are not eligible for Section 41 funds. There is no minimum number of students required for funding.

**TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE**

\$2,800,000

**LEGISLATION**

The 2008 State School Aid Act, Section 41

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